

REMARKS

Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application.

I. Disposition of Claims

Claims 2 and 12-17 are currently pending in the present application. As indicated in the Office Action of December 9, 2003, claims 2 and 12-17 have been allowed.

II. Objection(s) to the Specification

The Specification was objected to as failing to provide a written description for Figures 2a-d, 4a, 4b, and 11a-d. By way of this reply, the Brief Description of the Drawings section has been amended to include references to FIGS. 2a-d, 4a, 4b, and 11a-d. Further, Applicant notes that the Specification describes and makes specific reference to each of these figures as follows: FIG. 2a on page 18, lines 4 – 10; FIG. 2b on page 18, lines 10 – 12; FIG. 2c on page 18, lines 24 – 26; FIG. 2d on page 18, lines 26 – 28; FIG. 4a on page 21, line 28 – page 22, line 2; FIG. 4b on page 22, lines 11 – 12; FIG. 11a on page 30, lines 8 – 12; FIG. 11b on page 30, lines 14 – 16; FIG. 11c on page 30, lines 19 – 24; and FIG. 11d on page 30, lines 24 – 26. Thus, the Specification does provide sufficient written description for Figures 2a-d, 4a, 4b, and 11a-d of the present application. Accordingly, withdrawal of the objection the Specification is respectfully requested.

III. Information Disclosure Statement

Applicant thanks the Examiner for considering the Information Disclosure Statement of April 2, 2003. However, Applicant has not received an initialed PTO-1449 for the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 18, 2002. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests consideration and return of an initialed PTO-1449 for the Information Disclosure Statement filed on October 18, 2002.

IV. Acknowledgment of Priority

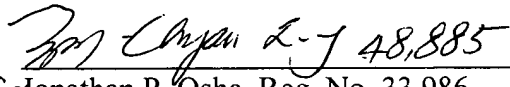
Applicant claimed foreign priority, under 35 U.S.C. § 119, of Japanese Patent Application Nos. 026749/2000 and 044820/2000 at the time of the filing of the present application. However, the Examiner has not acknowledged this claim for foreign priority. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests acknowledgment of the said claim for foreign priority.

V. Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account 50-0591 (Reference Number 06756.006001).

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 2/6/04


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